

## REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved  
OMB No. 0704-0188

AD-A251 096



tion is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Ave., and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

2. REPORT DATE  
5/29/923. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED  
Technical

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Magic Numbers in Molecular Clusters: A Probe for Chemical Reactivity			5. FUNDING NUMBERS R & T Code: 413n008 G N00014-88-K-0483	
6. AUTHOR(S) James F. Garvey and M. Todd Coolbaugh				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Dept. of Chemistry, Acheson Hall State University of New York at Buffalo Buffalo, NY 14214			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER Technical Report #33	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Dr. R. DeMarco/Dr. J. Pazik, Chemistry Division Office of Naval Research 800 N. Quincy St. Arlington, VA 22217			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  When neutral van der Waals clusters, produced in a supersonic expansion, are ionized the resulting cluster ion distribution can exhibit dramatic intensity anomalies for very specific cluster sizes. These 'magic numbers' typically result from a particularly stable cluster ion geometry generated by the completion of a full solvent shell around a central ion core. In this paper we will review our current work which employs magic numbers as a probe, not only of cluster ion structure, but also of chemical reactivity within these species. That is, the appearance of certain magic numbers can be attributed to unique "cluster reactions" occurring between the ion and the solvating molecules within the cluster.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS			15. NUMBER OF PAGES	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED		18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39-18  
298-102

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

GRANT N00014-88-K-0483

R & T Code 413n008

Technical Report No. 33

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A Probe for Chemical Reactivity**

by

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Prepared for Publication  
in  
Royal Society of Chemistry  
Chemical Society Reviews

Acheson Hall  
Department of Chemistry  
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The State University of New York at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY  
14214



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NTIS	CRA&I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC	TAB <input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced <input type="checkbox"/>	
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By	
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Availability Codes	
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June 1, 1992

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**92-14470**



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*submitted to Chem. Soc. Rev. 1/1/92*  
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## **Magic Numbers in Molecular Clusters: A Probe for Chemical Reactivity.**

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### **Abstract**

When neutral van der Waals clusters, produced in a supersonic expansion, are ionized the resulting cluster ion distribution can exhibit dramatic intensity anomalies for very specific cluster sizes. These 'magic numbers' typically result from a particularly stable cluster ion geometry generated by the completion of a full solvent shell around a central ion core. In this paper we will review our current work which employs magic numbers as a probe, not only of cluster ion structure, but also of chemical reactivity within these species. That is, the appearance of certain magic numbers can be attributed to unique "cluster reactions" occurring between the ion and the solvating molecules within the cluster

**M. Todd Coolbaugh** was born in Elmira, NY in 1962. He recieved his B.A. from Alfred University in 1985 and is currently completing his Ph.D work at SUNY/Buffalo.

**James F. Garvey** was born in Passaic, NJ, in 1957. He received his B.S./M.S. from Georgetown University in 1978 and his Ph.D from the California Institute of Technology in 1985 under Aron Kuppermann. He then went on to become a post-doctoral fellow at UCLA under Richard Bernstein, where at that time he became interested at looking at ion-molecule reactions within clusters. In 1987 he joined the faculty at SUNY/Buffalo. This past year he was appointed as an associate professor and was awarded an Alfred P Sloan Fellowship.

## 1. Introduction.

Clusters, which are gas phase aggregates consisting of two to several thousand atoms or molecules, have attracted a great deal of attention in recent years. This is due to the fact that these weakly bound species exist as a state of matter intermediate between the gas and condensed phases (solid and liquid).<sup>1-9</sup> Much of the recent activity in cluster science has been directed towards measuring and rationalizing the evolution of various physical properties, such as ionization potentials (IP's), as a function of cluster size. The purpose of such studies is to develop a better understanding of the relationships between the properties of the isolated (gas phase) molecules and the bulk properties of liquids and solids. The overall goal of much of this research is the development of a microscopic understanding of solvation effects. As a result, cluster research is attracting a growing number of researchers and cluster science is a rapidly developing discipline.

Studying chemical reactions in clusters allows one then, in principle, to study the transition from bimolecular reactivity to bulk phase reactivity, by observing reactions in successively larger clusters. At the same time an understanding of the factors which govern the structures of finite clusters may provide insight into the microscopic structure of bulk solvent medium. It is becoming clear that clusters present the experimental chemist with an unparalleled opportunity to investigate rather complex chemical processes in environments of greatly reduced complexity.

This review will discuss several aspects of novel chemistry within van der Waals clusters. We will first briefly outline the experimental methodology utilized in the production and detection of clusters, emphasizing the importance of various experimental parameters. Following this, a section will be devoted to a discussion of the origins and importance of 'magic number' clusters. Finally, several examples of the use of magic numbers in elucidating cluster chemistry taken from our own work will be presented.

## 2. Experimental Methodology.

**A. The Production of van der Waals Clusters.** Adiabatic expansions are the most widely utilized method for the generation of weakly bound van der Waals clusters. In this technique the species to be clustered is allowed to expand from a region of high pressure into a region of low pressure through a small orifice, i.e a molecular beam nozzle. The species to be clustered is often seeded into an inert carrier gas and clusters are formed in the low temperature, high collision frequency environment found in the early stages of the expansion, as discussed by Kappes and Leutwyler.<sup>10</sup>

These molecular beam cluster sources have the advantage of producing very intense beams of clusters but also suffer from the disadvantage of producing a wide distribution of clusters of various sizes. The distribution of clusters generated is highly dependent on the experimental conditions of the expansion. The present understanding of clustering in adiabatic expansions is such that no more than qualitative conclusions concerning the cluster distributions produced under any given set of experimental conditions can be made. The most important experimental parameters are the nozzle orifice diameter ( $d$ ), expansion (or stagnation) pressure ( $P_0$ ) and expansion/stagnation temperature ( $T_0$ ). In general, larger nozzle diameters, higher expansion pressures and lower stagnation temperatures all shift the overall cluster distribution towards larger cluster sizes. It is also expected that the overall width of the cluster distribution is proportional to the average cluster size<sup>10</sup> (i.e., the larger the average cluster size, the broader the overall distribution of sizes).

**B. Cluster Detection.** At present there is no generally applicable, convenient method of size selectively detecting neutral clusters. As a consequence of this limitation, the greater majority of cluster studies have employed mass spectrometric detection which offers the advantages of high sensitivity and size selection following the initial ionization event which produces the cluster ion. Electron impact, single photon (e.g. synchrotron radiation) and multiphoton (laser) ionization are among the more common modes of ionization current-

ly utilized in cluster mass spectrometry.

It is now recognized that ionization of a distribution of neutral clusters leads to a distribution of substantially smaller cluster ions and this evaporative process will be discussed in the next section. Since neither the neutral cluster distribution, nor the cluster ionization cross sections are generally available, the cluster ion distributions measured via the mass spectrometer cannot be quantitatively related to the original neutral cluster distributions.

Ionization of a neutral molecule within the cluster may also trigger complex bond cleavage and reformation reactions. Although this serves to further complicate the already 'delicate' relationship between the generated ion clusters and the original neutral clusters, these "intracluster ion-molecule reactions" are proving to be of great interest to the chemical community.<sup>1-9</sup> Many of the ions produced in molecular clusters bear close resemblance to intermediates encountered in condensed phase reactions so that a study of these reactions serves to provide a direct link between gas and solution phase chemistry.

### **3. The Cluster Mass Spectrum and Magic Numbers**

A cluster mass spectrum (CMS) will normally consist of one (or more) series of evenly spaced mass peaks, with the peak spacing corresponding to the monomer mass. The most basic piece of information available from the CMS is the mass to charge ratio ( $m/z$ ) of the cluster ion. From this (and a general knowledge of the composition of the neutral clusters) it is normally possible to assign accurate empirical formulae to the observed cluster ions. The chief drawback to any mass spectral experiment however, lies in the fact that the  $m/z$  ratio does not directly provide information concerning the structure of the ions, or their origins.

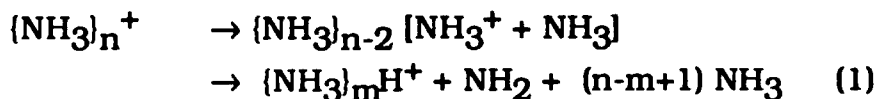
Fortunately, valuable insight concerning the structures, stabilities and sometimes the processes giving rise to particular cluster ions may often be obtained from examination of the cluster ion intensity distributions, i.e. the abundances of the cluster ions as a function of the cluster size. For this reason

characterization of cluster ion intensity distributions has been a central theme in much of the cluster literature.

In general, cluster ion intensity distributions are found to vary rather smoothly as a function of cluster size (with the overall intensities dropping off in an exponential fashion as one goes to larger cluster sizes). Anomalous intensities or abrupt changes in the forms or shapes of cluster ion intensity distributions which occur at specific clusters sizes have been termed 'magic numbers' and have provided the key to understanding a number of cluster systems.

**A. The Origin of Magic Numbers.** The origins of magic numbers have been the subject of much discussion over the years. In some early reports it was suggested that magic numbers reflected abundance anomalies in the neutral cluster distributions. This viewpoint has been abandoned since it is now recognized that ionization of neutral clusters nearly always leads to extensive fragmentation.

It is now generally accepted that the cluster ion distributions of *weakly bound* clusters are a reflection of the stabilities of the cluster ions.<sup>8</sup> Magic numbers therefore are nearly always associated with some abrupt change in the stepwise binding energies of individual monomer units to the cluster ion. Perhaps the most cited example is ammonia clusters where the CMS consists of a group of 4 peaks each separated by 1 mass unit, as shown in figure 2. This set of 4 peaks is repeated throughout the CMS, regularly spaced by 17 mass units. The peak labeled **P** correspond to the parent cluster ion  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_n^+$ , while the peaks 1 mass unit above and below (**a** and **1**) correspond respectively to the loss or gain of a hydrogen atom. Peak **a** corresponds to simple fragmentation of an excited  $\text{NH}_3^+$  ion within the cluster to form a solvated  $\text{NH}_2^+$  cluster ion. Peak **1** comes about from a exoergic intracuster ion-molecule reaction between the  $\text{NH}_3^+$  ion and one of the  $\text{NH}_3$  monomers to form  $\text{NH}_2$  and a solvated protonated ammonia ion as shown in reaction 1.



It was long suspected that the ion 'core' of these protonated ammonia

clusters should be the ammonium ion,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . Figure 3a shows a plot of  $(\text{NH}_3)_n\text{H}^+$  as a function of  $n$ . A prominent magic number is observed at  $n = 5$  which corresponds to the  $(\text{NH}_3)_4\text{NH}_4^+$  cluster ion. The magic number could be explained in terms of the completion of the first solvation shell about the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion by 4  $\text{NH}_3$  molecules directly hydrogen bonded to a central  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion as indicated in figure 3b.<sup>5</sup> In fact, most magic numbers in hydrogen bonded cluster ions have now been shown to arise as a consequence of solvation shell closures.

The physical origin of magic numbers may be traced to the kinetics of the various processes taking place subsequent to the ionization event.<sup>8</sup> Ionization of cold neutral clusters leads to the production of internally excited, i.e. 'hot', cluster ions. This excess energy results from differences in the structures of the neutral and ion clusters; exoergic intracuster ion-molecule reactions may also contribute. This excess internal energy is dissipated by the loss of monomers from the cluster in a process which may be likened to evaporative cooling generating a smaller, cooler cluster ion.

The appearance of magic numbers is a direct consequence of the kinetics of the fragmentation reactions following ionization and any subsequent ion-molecule reactions. It is now believed that many monomers are lost from the cluster following ionization. The kinetics of these monomer evaporations are, as a result, quite sensitive to variations in the binding energies within the cluster and are therefore the size determining reactions, on the timescale of mass spectroscopic detection. Essentially, clusters with lower binding energies will be characterized by faster dissociation rates than those of higher binding energies and will thus be observed with lower intensity. Magic numbers thus signal the existence of particularly stable cluster ions, or sudden changes in the stepwise binding energies.



#### 4. Results

In the following sections we will discuss several examples of the types of insight provided by the observation of magic numbers which have been taken from work conducted in Buffalo. Magic numbers observed in the CMS of ammonia and dimethyl ether will provide examples of magic numbers as well as demonstrating the way in which these observations can provide insight into the reactive processes initiated by ionization of a cluster. The CMS of ethene and 1,1-difluoroethene also provide interesting examples of magic numbers which suggest the possibility that clusters may provide useful media in which to study the basic processes of ionic polymerization.

The experimental setup has been described in detail previously<sup>11</sup> and is shown schematically in Figure 1. Briefly, it consists of a continuous molecular beam cluster source of the Campargue type.<sup>12</sup> A 250  $\mu\text{m}$  sonic nozzle was employed in all the experiments reported below. The nozzle assembly is connected to a circulating chiller to allow control and variation of the temperature of the nozzle and the gas stagnation region immediately behind it. The mass spectrometer (Extrel C50 unit mass resolution up to 1500 amu) is equipped with an electron impact ion source and a channeltron particle detector.

**A. Ammonia Clusters.** Ammonia is one of the most extensively studied cluster ion systems and represents one of the first cluster ion systems for which the link between the observation of magic numbers and cluster ion stabilities was established. The CMS of ammonia are dominated by the protonated cluster ions,  $(\text{NH}_3)_n\text{H}^+$ . Figure 3a displays the ammonia cluster ion intensity distribution obtained with expansion conditions favoring extensive cluster formation. The magic number at  $n = 5$  is clearly evident. Spectroscopic studies<sup>13</sup> have quite convincingly demonstrated that this ion may be regarded as an  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion to which four  $\text{NH}_3$  molecules are directly hydrogen bonded as shown in figure 3b. Additional spectroscopic studies<sup>14</sup> have been interpreted in terms of an additional solvation shell closing at  $n = 9$ , i.e.  $(\text{NH}_3)_8\text{NH}_4^+$ . This interpretation is supported by the mass spectral data of Figure 3a where an

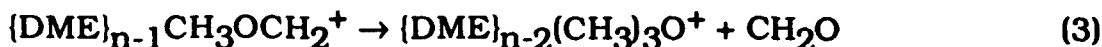
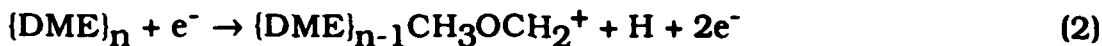
additional large drop in intensity is observed at  $n = 9$ .

In addition to the protonated clusters, several other series of cluster ions are observed<sup>9,15</sup> as demonstrated in Figure 2a. The cluster ions labeled 'a' in Figure 2a are particularly interesting in that the  $m/z$  ratios allow the empirical formulae  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_{n-1}\text{NH}_2^+$  to be assigned to these ions. The  $\text{NH}_2^+$  ion may be formed via fragmentation of an ammonia cation within the cluster but is it correct to view these ions as  $\text{NH}_2^+$  ions solvated by ammonia molecules?

Consideration of the IP's of  $\text{NH}_2$  (11.14 eV) and  $\text{NH}_3$  (10.16 eV) makes this highly unlikely.  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_{n-1}\text{NH}_2^+$  must be rejected as representing the structure of the cluster ions under consideration. Stephan *et.al.*<sup>18</sup> reported the observation of an ion at  $m/z = 33$  ( $\text{NH}_3\text{NH}_2^+$ ) in an electron impact ionization study of ammonia clusters and reported an appearance energy for this ion of  $15.6 \pm 0.3$  eV. It was suggested that this ion represented an  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_5^+$  ion produced by an intracuster ion-molecule reaction of an electronically excited  $\text{NH}_3^{+*}$  ion. Figure 4a provides evidence, in the form of cluster ion intensity distributions, which supports this suggestion. These distributions show a prominent magic number at  $n = 7$  for  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_{n-1}\text{NH}_2^+$ . Figure 4b displays the structure we propose for the magic number cluster, which may be thought of as a protonated hydrazine molecule with a complete solvation shell.<sup>9,15</sup> The prominence of the magic number can be rationalized in terms of the highly exoergic nature of the ion molecule reaction which forms the protonated hydrazine (approximately 4.5 eV exothermic). This is reflected by the tendency of the highly excited  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_5^+$  ion to 'shake off'  $\text{NH}_3$  solvent molecules which are outside of the first solvation shell.

**B Dimethyl Ether Clusters.** Figure 5 displays a portion of a typical CMS of dimethyl ether (DME;  $m/z = 46$  amu) clusters. The dominant cluster ions correspond to the protonated clusters,  $\text{DME}_n\text{H}^+$ . Several series of 'fragment' ions are also observed in the CMS. The two most important of these are found at masses given by  $46n + 45$  and  $46n + 15$ . These may be assigned empirical formulae  $\{\text{DME}\}_{n-1}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}^+$  and  $\{\text{DME}\}_n\text{CH}_3^+$ , respectively.

Based on the known gas phase ion chemistry of DME<sup>17</sup> the most likely assignments of these ions are  $\{\text{DME}\}_n\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_2^+$  and  $\{\text{DME}\}_{n-1}[(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{O}^+]$ . The expected relationship between these ions is shown in Eqns. (2) and (3):



The bimolecular reaction between the methoxymethyl cation  $\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_2^+$  and DME giving rise to the trimethyloxonium ion,  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{O}^+$ , is well known from high pressure mass spectrometric studies.<sup>17</sup> Both of these cluster ions have been observed in SIFT studies of clustering reactions in DME<sup>18</sup> and the relationships depicted in (1) and (2) confirmed by appearance energy measurements.

In addition to the 'fragment' ions just discussed, another series of cluster ions are observed at masses given by  $46n + 33$ . The most reasonable empirical formulae for these ions are given by  $\{\text{DME}\}_n\text{CH}_5\text{O}^+$ . Figure 6 displays the intensity distribution for these ions observed, in this case, at several different electron impact energies. A magic number is observed in these distributions at  $n = 2$ . On this basis, we have proposed<sup>9,19</sup> that the  $46n + 33$  ions may be assigned as methanol ions solvated by DME ions, i.e.  $\{\text{DME}\}_n\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$ .

The observation of these ions is particularly intriguing since there are no reports of any gas phase reactions of DME with  $\text{DME}^+$  or any of its fragment ions giving rise to methanol ions. The reaction(s) giving rise to the  $\{\text{DME}\}_n\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$  ions may be related to the catalytic conversion of methanol into hydrocarbons. It is known that the initial step in this process involves dehydration of methanol to give DME but to date, the mechanism of the initial C-C bond formation remains to be unequivocally established.<sup>20</sup> The initial step of the catalytic conversion, i.e. dehydration of methanol to DME, has been observed in methanol cluster ions.<sup>21</sup> It may be noted that acidic sites on the zeolite catalyst are believed to play an important part in the catalytic process and thus it may not be surprising that similar reactions are observed in protonated cluster ions.

Several ion/molecule reactions in the DME system have been reported in

which methanol was suggested as the *neutral* product. Methanol was a suggested product arising from the collisional activation of the trimethyloxonium ion:<sup>22</sup>



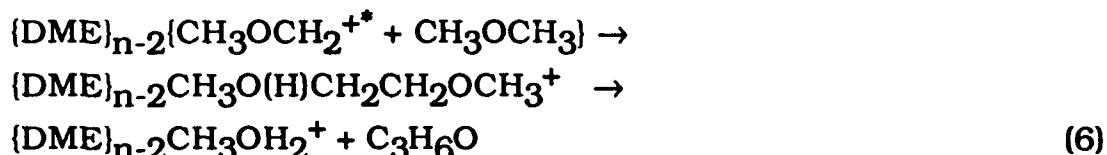
We have observed that the intensity of the  $\{\text{DME}\}_{n-1}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{O}^+$  ions fall off very rapidly with increasing cluster size whereas the intensity of the  $\{\text{DME}\}_n\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$  ions increases with increasing cluster size, particularly at the lower electron energies where fragmentation is less pronounced. It is possible these trends reflect the consumption of trimethyloxonium ion by reaction (5) within the clusters.<sup>19</sup>



and would require that  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  be produced instead of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5^+$ . Both  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  and DME have higher proton affinities than  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  and the presence of the solvent molecules may be responsible for this apparent change of reaction products; e.g. because of hydrogen bonding, solvation of a  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$  in a DME cluster might be expected to be more favorable than that of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5^+$ .

The reaction mechanism outlined in the paragraph above and shown in figure 7, implies that the  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{O}^+$  ions are destabilized by the presence of solvent molecules, i.e. the trimethyloxonium ions are consumed in the production of protonated methanol ions. It is also possible to propose a reaction mechanism based on a competition between production of the trimethyloxonium and methanol ions. The methyl cation transfer reaction, reaction (3), has been shown to be a  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reaction and its very slow rate in the gas phase the result of severe steric requirements (approach angles and orientations).<sup>23</sup> This suggests that the rapid quenching of (3) in the clusters is related to the fact that proper orientations of the reactants are more difficult when solvent molecules are present- this is common to many  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reactions. In this case it is not clear what reaction gives rise to the protonated methanol ions within the DME clusters. We are currently investigating the possibility that the production of methanol within DME clusters arises as a result of a bond formation reaction between an excited  $\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_2^+$  ion and DME giving rise to a proto-

nated 1,2-dimethoxyethane (glyme) molecule.



A number of the other ions observed in the fragment ion regions are consistent with this hypothesis including the fairly strong  $\{\text{DME}\}_{n-1}\text{CH}_3\text{O}^+$  ion and the minor ions corresponding to  $\{\text{DME}\}_n\text{CH}_{1,2}^+$ . Glyme formation from DME in superacid media has also been reported.<sup>24</sup>

It is perhaps of interest to note that reaction (6) could be considered as generally analogous to the reaction of  $\text{NH}_2^+$  ions in ammonia clusters discussed above. In both cases reactions may take place in clusters which do not occur under bimolecular conditions. The presence of 'solvent' molecules serves to stabilize the products of extremely exothermic reactions allowing formation of covalent bonds.

**C. The Olefin Clusters.** Figs. 8 and 9 display the pressure dependence of ethene and 1,1-difluoroethene (1,1-DFE) cluster ion intensity distributions, respectively.<sup>9,25,26</sup> The striking feature of these distributions is the rapid increase of the intensity of the  $n = 4$  and 5 ions observed with increasing stagnation pressures which is accompanied by a concomitant decrease in the intensities of the  $n = 2$  and 3 ions. This behavior is in marked contrast to that associated with typical magic numbers in that it is dependent on expansion conditions.

High pressure mass spectrometry has established that sequential ion molecule reactions within ethene lead to the formation of covalently bonded molecular ions.<sup>27</sup> The reactivity of the growing ion was found to decrease dramatically as a function of the ion size. Kubarle and coworkers have found that the  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}^+$  and  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{20}^+$  ions were the largest ions produced with high intensity. This effect was attributed to steric hindrance due to the structure of the larger ions.

Cationic polymerization was also suggested as one of the processes tak-

ing place in solid ethene following radiolysis.<sup>28</sup> Once again the ionic reactions were found to be quite inefficient, mainly producing molecules only up to about  $C_{12}H_{24}$ . It was unclear in these experiments whether the extent of reaction was limited by the kinetics of the ionic reactions or by neutralization by recombination with geminate electrons.

The sharp drop observed beyond  $n = 5$  in Figs. 8 and 9 indicates that the probability of observing ions larger than  $C_{10}H_{20}^+$  is low regardless of the starting size of the cluster ion initially formed. The behavior of the cluster ion distributions may then be explained as follows for ethene clusters: The  $C_2H_4^+$  ion within the cluster reacts with one of the neighboring monomers to give an internally excited  $C_4H_8^{+*}$  ion. Under bimolecular conditions this intermediate rearranges and fragments *via*  $CH_3$  or H loss.<sup>29</sup> In clusters of sufficient size, this intermediate may be stabilized by transfer of its internal energy into the cluster modes, probably resulting in the 'boiling off' of additional ethene monomers. Such processes may be expected to become more efficient in larger clusters which explains the observed rapid decrease in the intensities of the non-stoichiometric 'fragment' ions with cluster size. The stabilized  $C_4H_8^+$  ion may then react with another monomer molecule with the excess energy again being dissipated by 'boiling off' monomers, etc. These ionic addition reactions proceed until an ion is formed which is characterized by extremely low reactivity towards additional monomer molecules, i.e. until a 'kinetic bottleneck' is reached. The resulting molecular ion may be expected to contain considerable internal energy which is dissipated by boiling off a number of the remaining monomers giving in many cases the bare molecular ions.

Kinetic bottlenecks are often encountered in polymer chemistry and are often associated with the formation of cyclic ions.<sup>30</sup> Such ions often possess low reactivities because of the high activation barriers associated with the breaking of the C-C bond which is necessary for further reaction. The magic numbers observed in the ethene and 1,1-DFE CMS most likely arise as a consequence of the formation of cyclic (probably five- and/or six-membered rings) molecular ions.

The similarities between the high pressure mass spectrometric and cluster mass spectrometric results suggest that the qualitative trends in the kinetics of the ion-molecule reactions are very similar in both a high collision frequency gas phase environment and the interior of a cluster. These results also suggest that the solid state polymerization is indeed limited by kinetic effects associated with the growth of the polymer ion. Overall, then, investigations of ionic polymerization reactions within cluster ions may provide valuable insight into the early stages of ionic polymerization.

### 5. Future Directions.

The study of clusters will certainly continue to provide insight into the nature of solvation effects in chemistry and the local structure of the solvent medium. One may also expect to see an increasing number of investigators taking advantage of the simplified medium of the finite cluster to study chemical processes such as ionic polymerization. Observation of magic numbers will undoubtedly continue to play an important part in understanding the structure and reactivities of cluster ion systems.

Several lines of research are currently being pursued in this laboratory. Among these is an investigation of alcohol/water and other mixed protonated cluster ion systems. Alcohol water clusters are rather interesting since it is known that clusters of the type  $\{\text{ROH}\}_n\{\text{H}_2\text{O}\}\text{H}^+$  preferentially lose  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  when  $n$  is small ( $n \leq \text{ca. } 8 - 10$ ), while large clusters preferentially lose  $\text{ROH}$ . No generally satisfactory explanation of this behavior has been postulated. Ligand preference switches have been noted in several other molecule/water cluster ion systems and have been linked to formation of cluster ions in which  $\{\text{H}_2\text{O}\}_n\text{H}^+$  clusters form the ion core of the clusters even though the molecular components of the cluster possess much higher gas phase proton affinities. It is our contention that the energetically favored structure for these clusters is thus the one that 1) maximizes the number of hydrogen bonds and 2) minimizes the distances between the alcohol molecules and the ion core. Figure 10 shows our postulated structure for the  $\{\text{ROH}\}_9\{\text{H}_2\text{O}\}\text{H}^+$  magic num-

ber.<sup>31</sup> The structure consists of a central  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  ion completely solvated by a ring (or chain) of hydrogen bonded alcohols generating three fused five-membered rings, each consisting of 4  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ 's and a  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  hydrogen bonded together and is the one particular structure which maximizes the number of possible hydrogen bonds in the cluster ion. We are currently investigating the possibility that this is a general model which may explain the magic numbers observed in all distributions of  $\{\text{ROH}\}_n\{\text{H}_2\text{O}\}_m\text{H}^+$  heteroclusters.

We are also continuing our investigation of ionic polymerization reactions within cluster ions. We have begun to expand our studies to include neat acetylene clusters and clusters composed of acetylene and molecules containing carbon-oxygen double bonds (e.g. acetone) and carbon-nitrogen triple bonds (e.g. acetonitrile). Our preliminary findings suggest that ring formation reactions in acetylene clusters give rise to the very stable benzene ion. The intensity distributions of the mixed cluster ions show features which can be explained by the formation of six-membered ring heterocyclic compounds, e.g. the *methylpyridine ion in acetylene/acetonitrile clusters*.<sup>32</sup>

### Acknowledgements

This research was supported by the Office of Naval Research which is gratefully acknowledged. We also acknowledge the work of Dr. W. R. Peifer, Gopalakrishnan Vaidyanathan, William J. Herron and Stephanie G. Whitney on various aspects of this research. JFG recognizes the Alfred P Sloan Foundation for a Research Fellowship (1991-1993).



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### Figure Captions

**Figure 1.** Schematic side view of the differentially pumped cluster beam apparatus and quadrupole mass spectrometer. The temperature of the nozzle and stagnation region is regulated by a circulating chiller

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**Figure 2.** A representative portion of a typical 70 eV electron impact mass spectrum of the ammonia cluster beam. This portion of the spectrum corresponds to the four different cluster ion species containing 25 nitrogen atoms. This sequence of four peaks is observed throughout the entire cluster mass spectrum as a function of  $n$ , spaced by 17 amu. The abscissa is scaled to the nominal masses of the clusters. The fourth peak (at  $m/z=427$ , not labeled) is attributed to  $^{15}\text{N}$  contribution from the 1 peak, water impurity and/or intracluster reaction<sup>11</sup>.

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**Figure 3a.** A log plot of the intensity of  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_n\text{H}^+$  clusters obtained from 70 eV electron impact ionization of a neat ammonia cluster beam,  $P_0 = 2.2$  atm;  $T_0 = 293$  K.

**Figure 3b.** Structure for the  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_4\text{NH}_4^+$  cluster ion. The shaded circles correspond to nitrogen atoms while the open circles correspond to hydrogen atoms. This structure represents a protonated ammonia ion surrounded by a complete solvation shell of ammonia molecules.

**Figure 4a.** A plot of the intensities of the  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_{n-1}\text{NH}_2^+$  cluster ions as a function of electron impact energies (top panel,  $T = 273\text{K}$ , and as a function of nozzle temperatures (bottom panel, electron impact energy =  $70\text{eV}$ )

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**Figure 4b.** Structure proposed for the  $\{\text{NH}_3\}_6\text{NH}_2^+$  cluster ion. The shaded circles correspond to nitrogen atoms while the open circles correspond to hydrogen atoms. This structure represents a protonated hydrazine ion (within the circle) surrounded by a complete solvation shell of ammonia molecules.

**Figure 5.** A representative portion of the electron impact mass spectrum of a dimethyl ether cluster beam.

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**Figure 6.** Top panel: Plot of the intensities of the  $\{(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{O}\}_n\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$  clusters at several electron energies.

Bottom panel: Structure proposed for the  $\{(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{O}\}_2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$  cluster ion. The shaded circles correspond to oxygen atoms while the open circles correspond to hydrogen atoms and the black circles correspond to carbon atoms. This structure represents a protonated methanol ion solvated by two dimethyl ether molecules.

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**Figure 7** Schematic representation of possible ion-molecule reactions within dimethyl ether clusters leading to the observed CMS.

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**Figure 8.** Plots of the stoichiometric ethene cluster ion intensities,  $\{C_2H_4\}_n^+$ , at several different expansion pressures. The expansion temperature was maintained at 253 K. The electron impact energy was 13 eV. Reprinted with permission from ref 25. Copyright 1990 Elsevier Science Publishers B. V. (North-Holland).

**Figure 9.** Plots of the stoichiometric 1,1-difluoroethene cluster ion intensities,  $\{C_2H_2F_2\}_n^+$ , at several different expansion pressures. The expansion temperature was maintained at 247 K. The electron impact energy was 14 eV. Reprinted with permission from ref 26. Copyright 1991 American Chemical Society.

**Figure 10.** Proposed structure for the  $\{CH_3OH\}_9\{H_2O\}H^+$  cluster ion. This particular species is the most prevalent of all cluster ions in the series  $\{CH_3OH\}_n\{H_2O\}H^+$  (which starts at  $n = 7$ ). The dark circles correspond to carbon atoms, the shaded circles correspond to oxygen atoms and the open circles are hydrogen atoms. Chemical bonds are indicated by 'sticks' while hydrogen bonds are indicated by thin lines. This structure is somewhat 'flattened' in order to highlight the 3 '5-membered' hydrogen bonding rings.

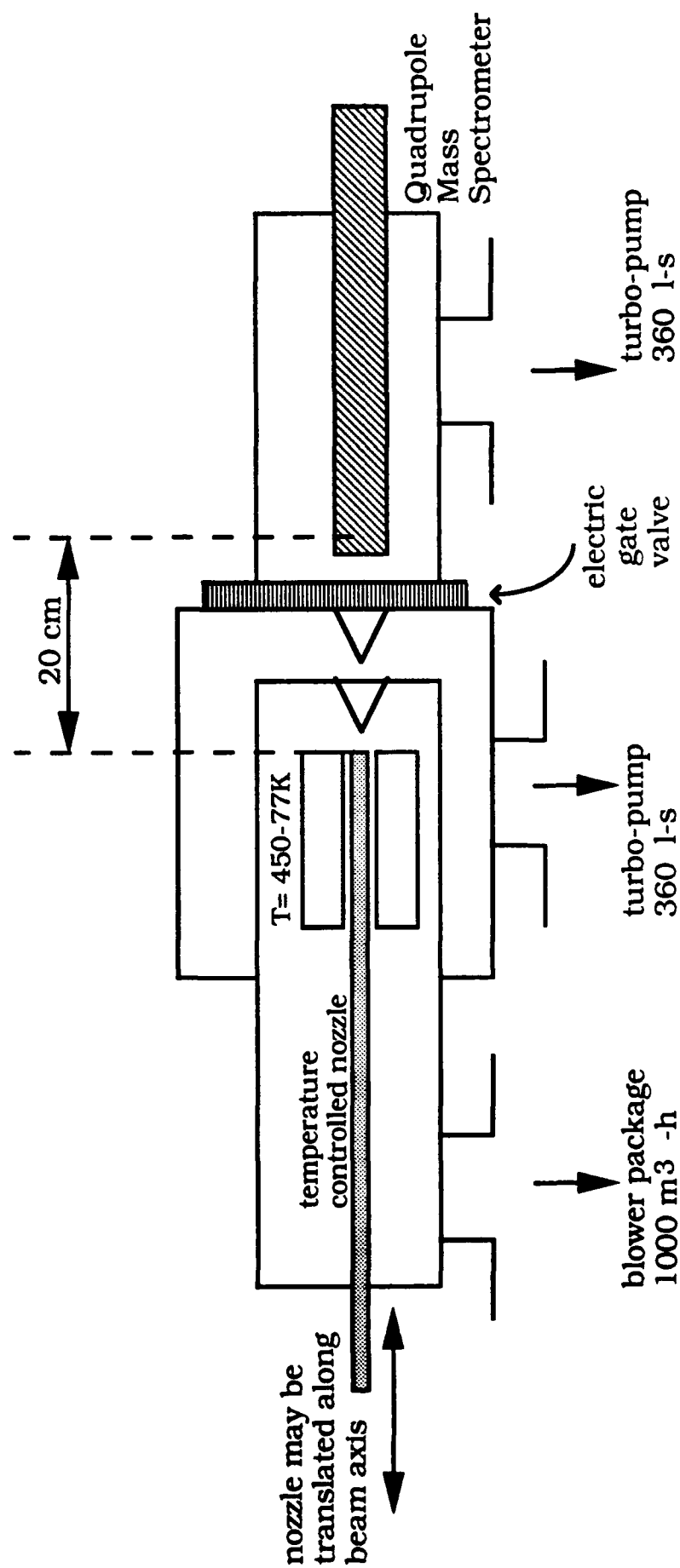


Figure 1. Coxam et al.

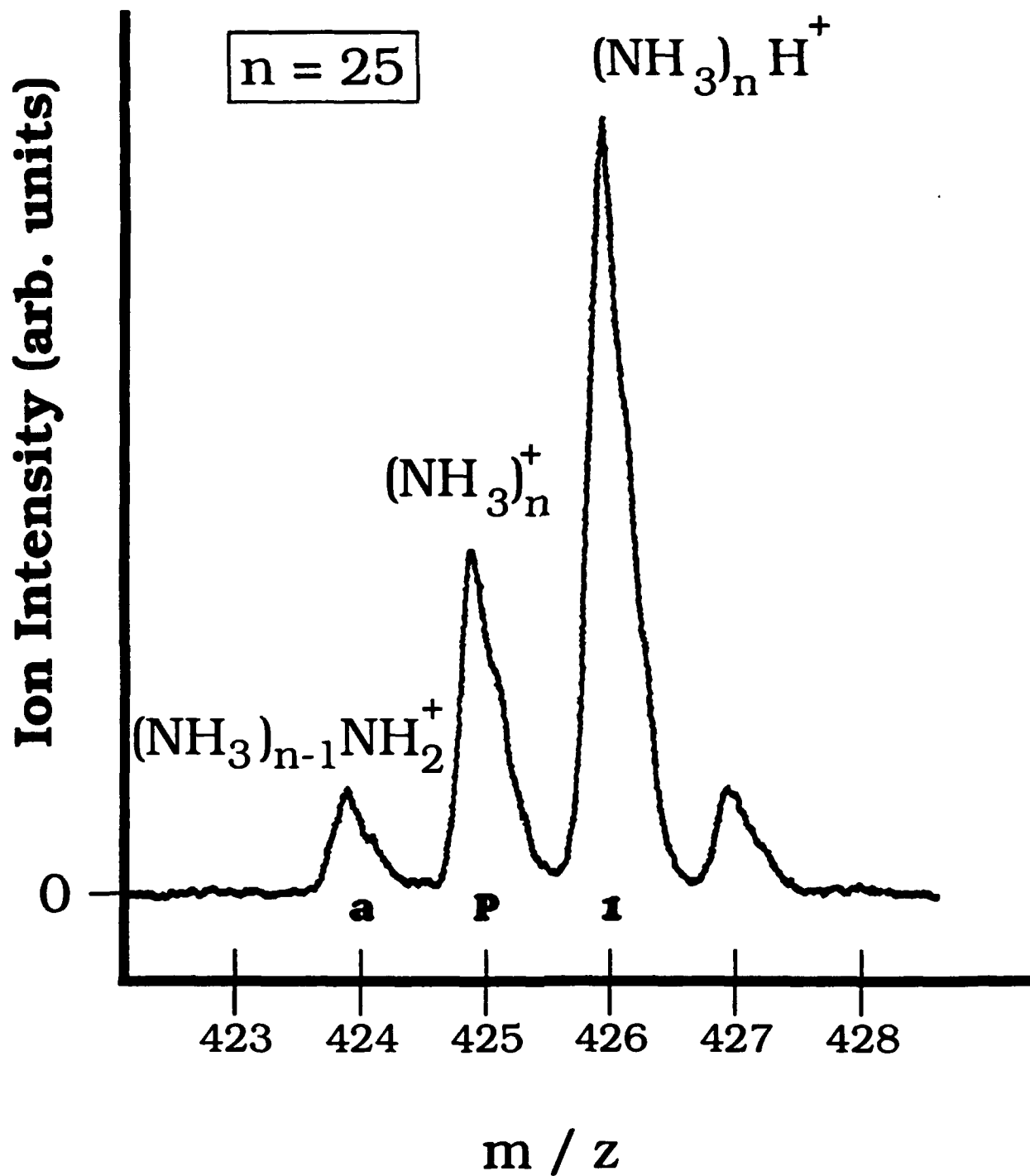


Figure 24: Coorbital Gases



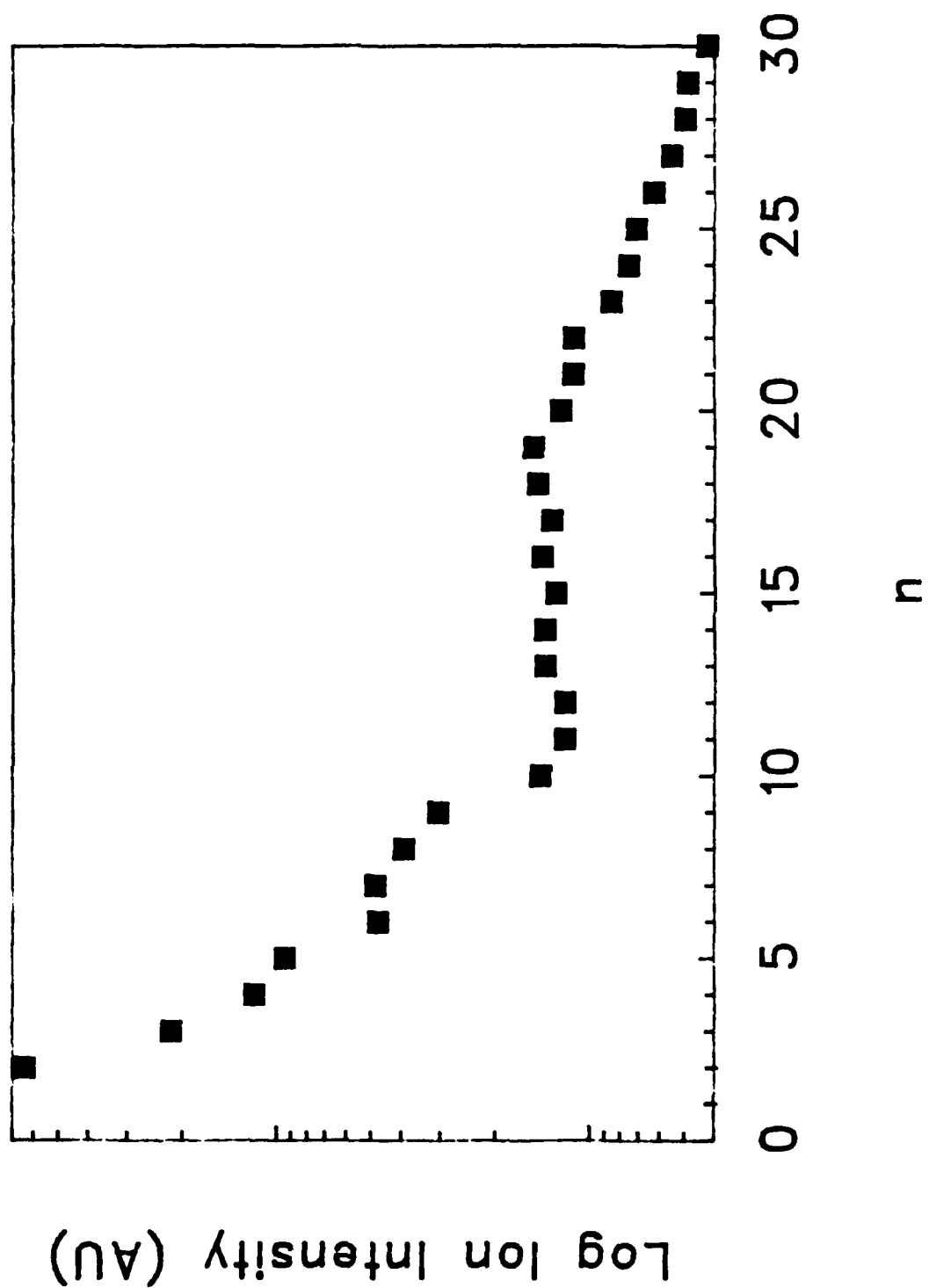


Figure 3A: (Continued)

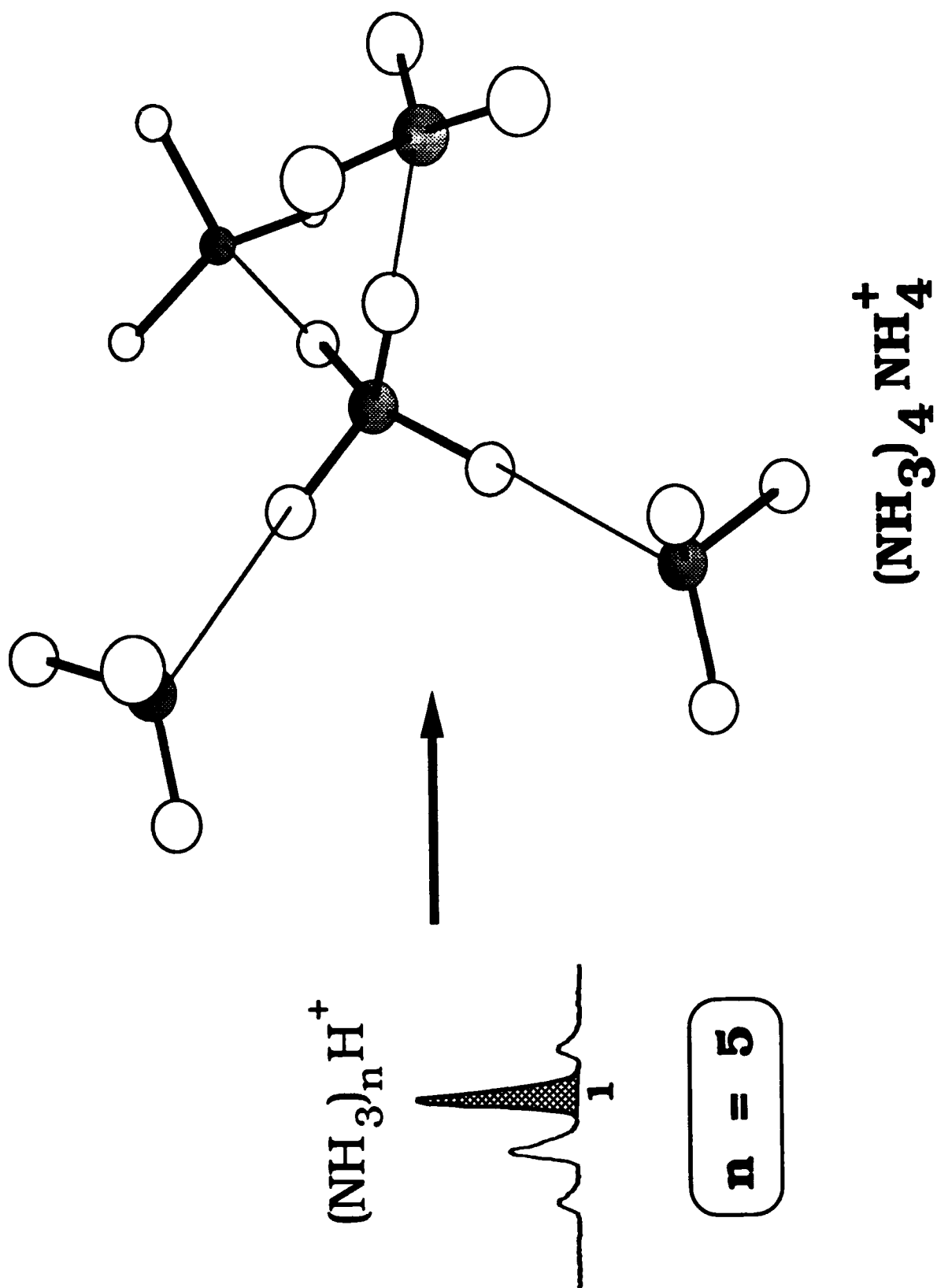
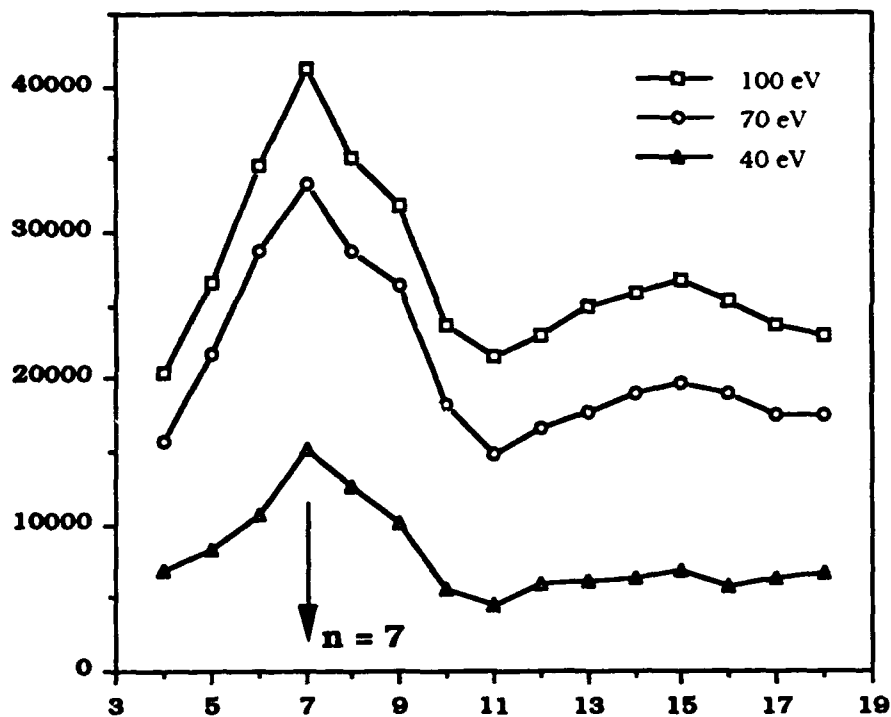


Figure 3b: Reaction - Gas phase

Ion Intensity (arb. units)

### Electron Energy Dependence



### Nozzle Temperature Dependence

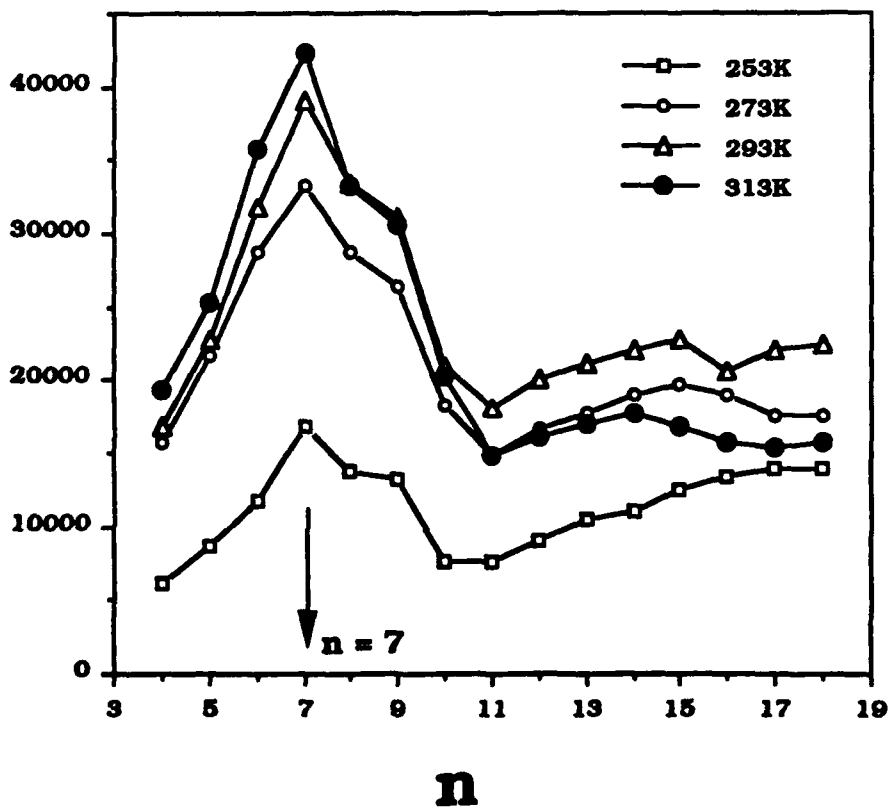
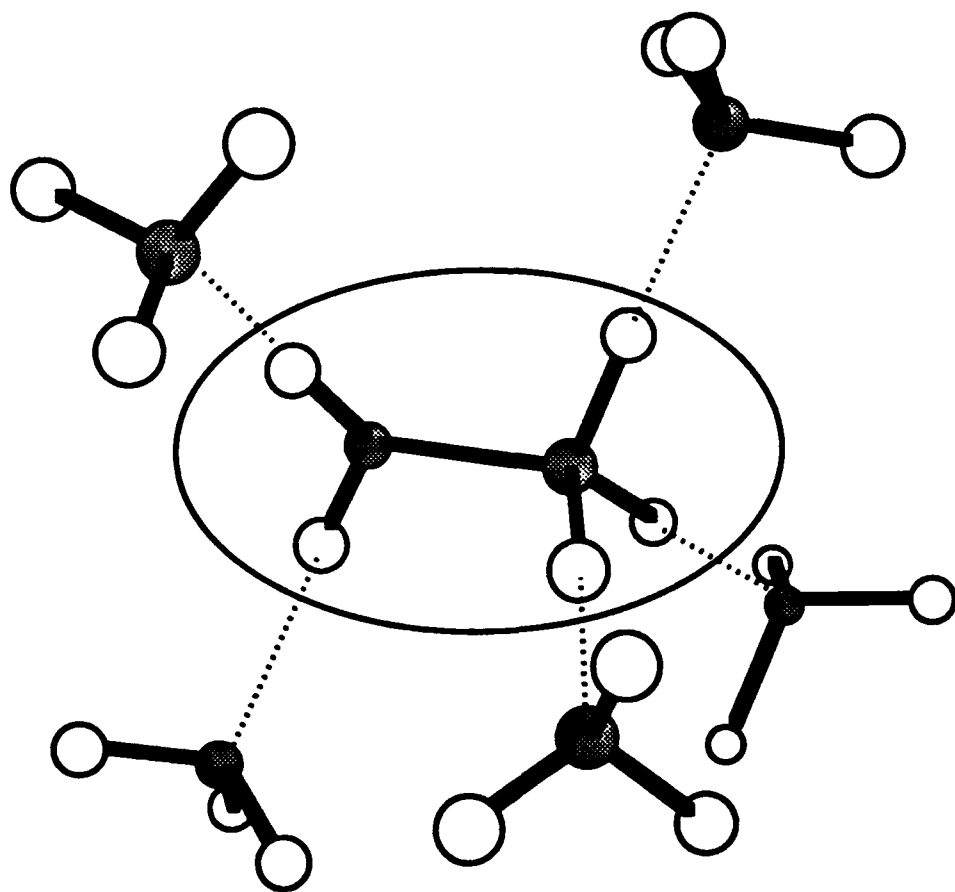
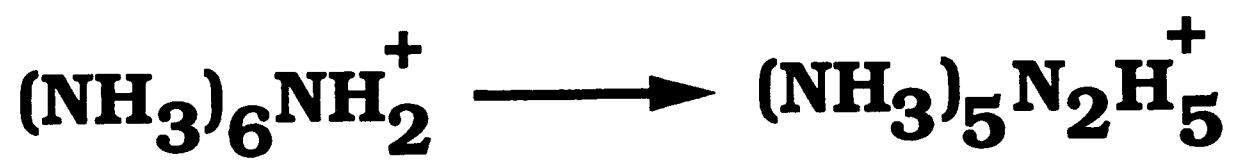


Figure 4A: Colectors - Laser



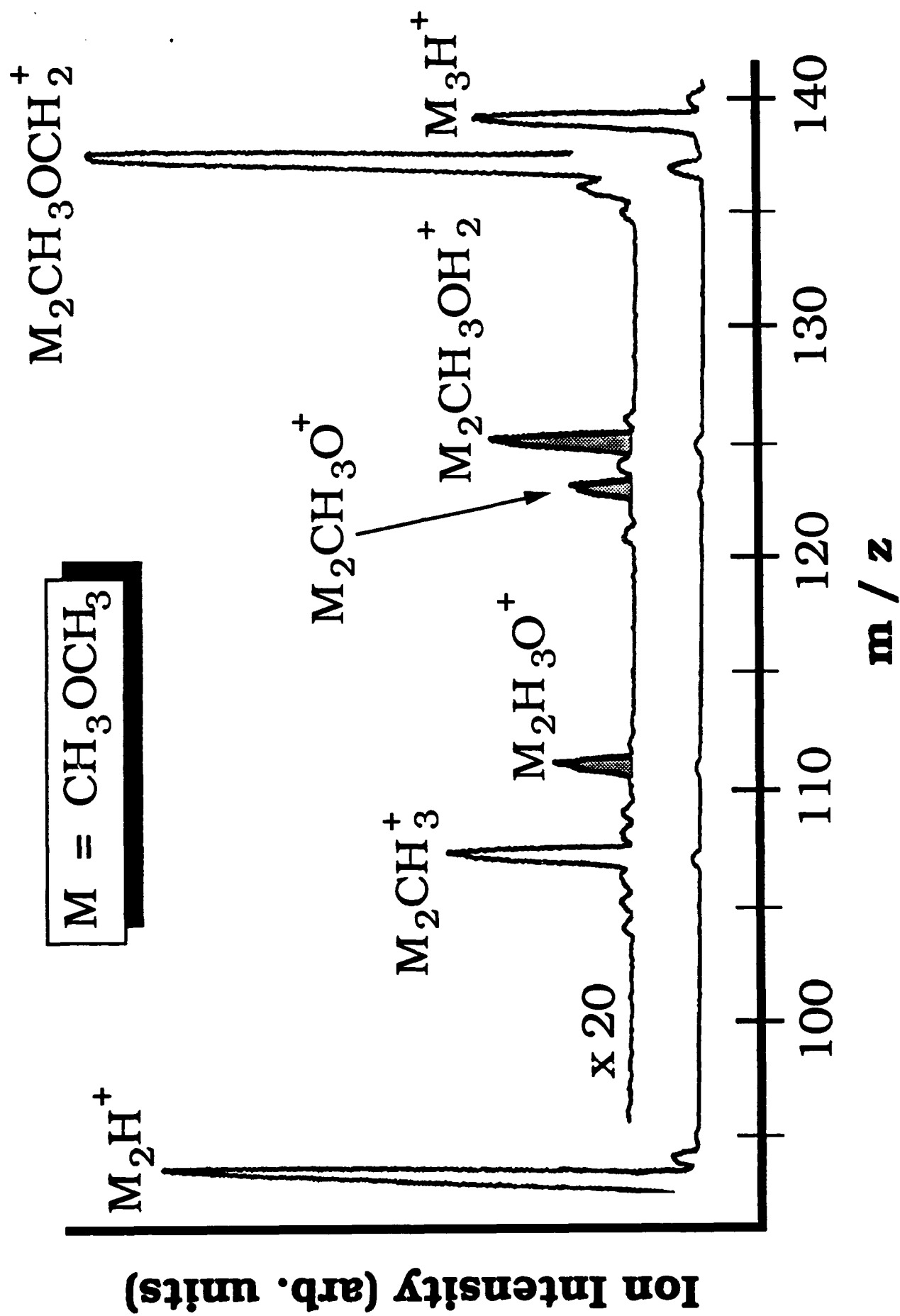
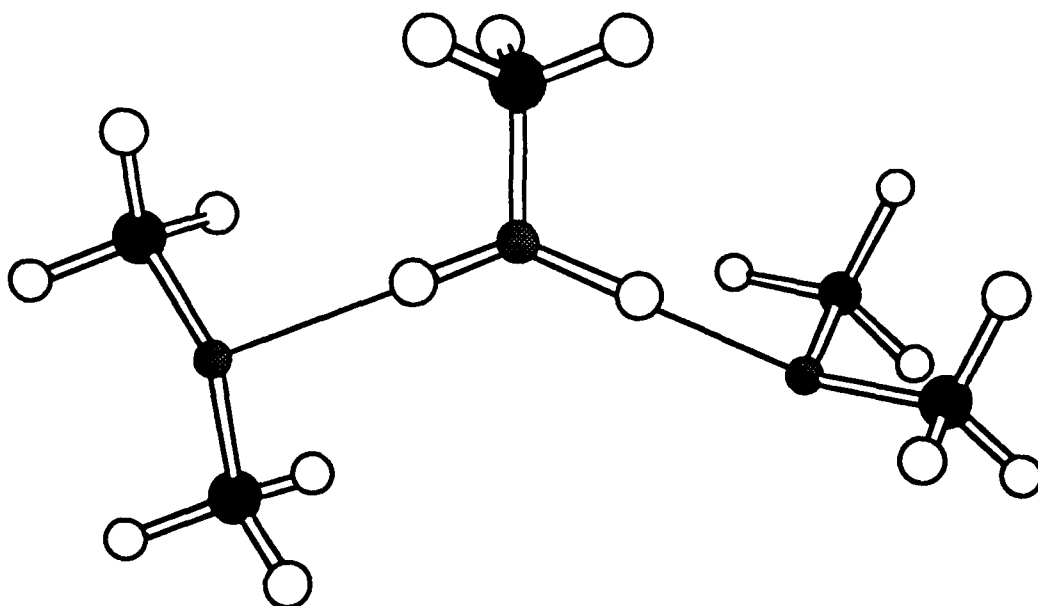
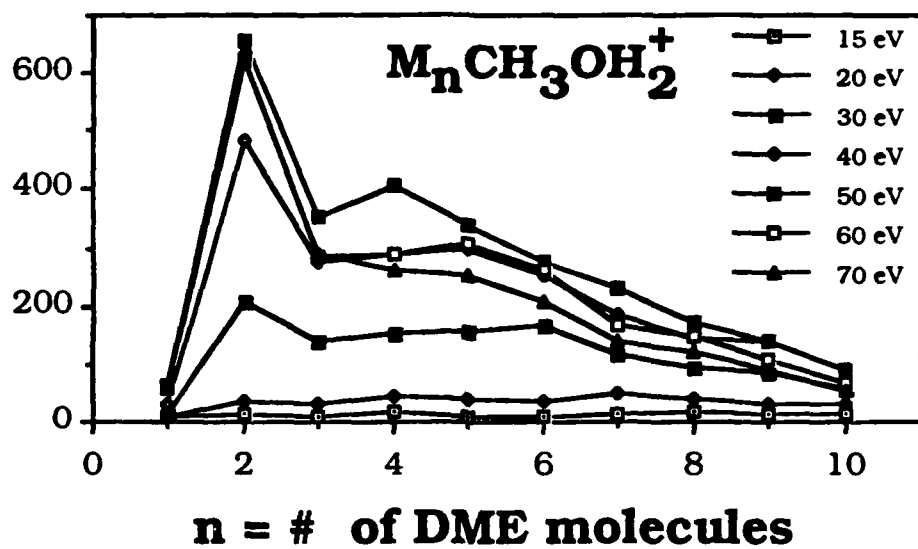
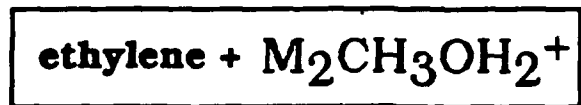
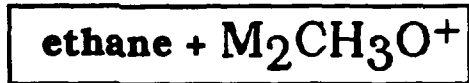
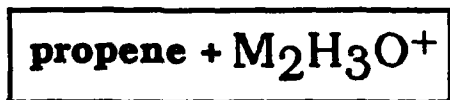
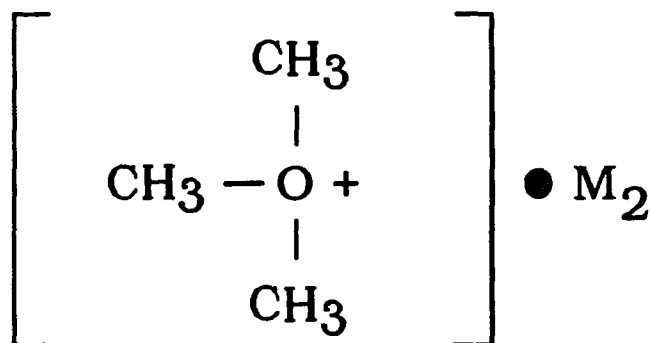
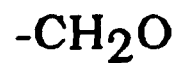
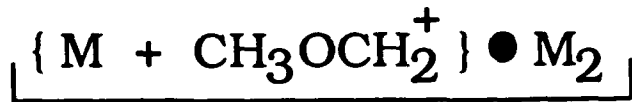
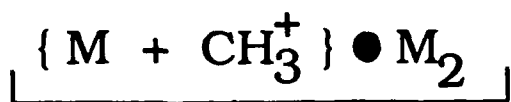


Figure 5° (60° angle, 60°)

Ion Intensity (arb. units)





Ion Intensity (arb. units)

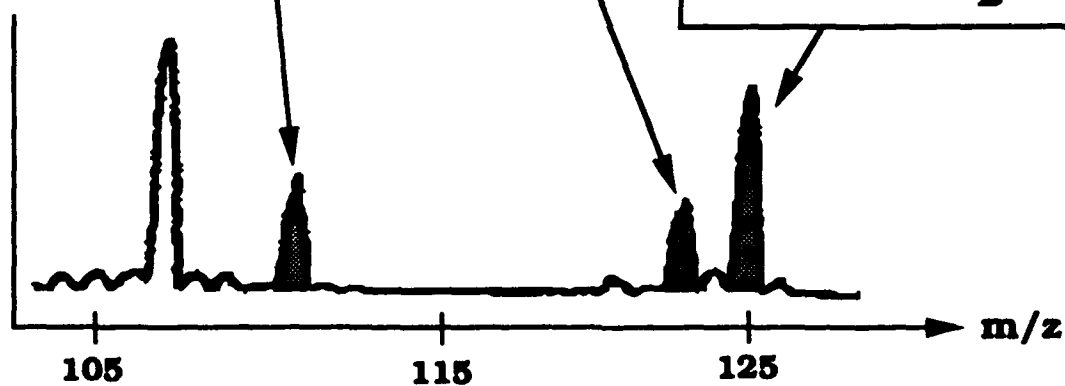


Figure 7: Continued

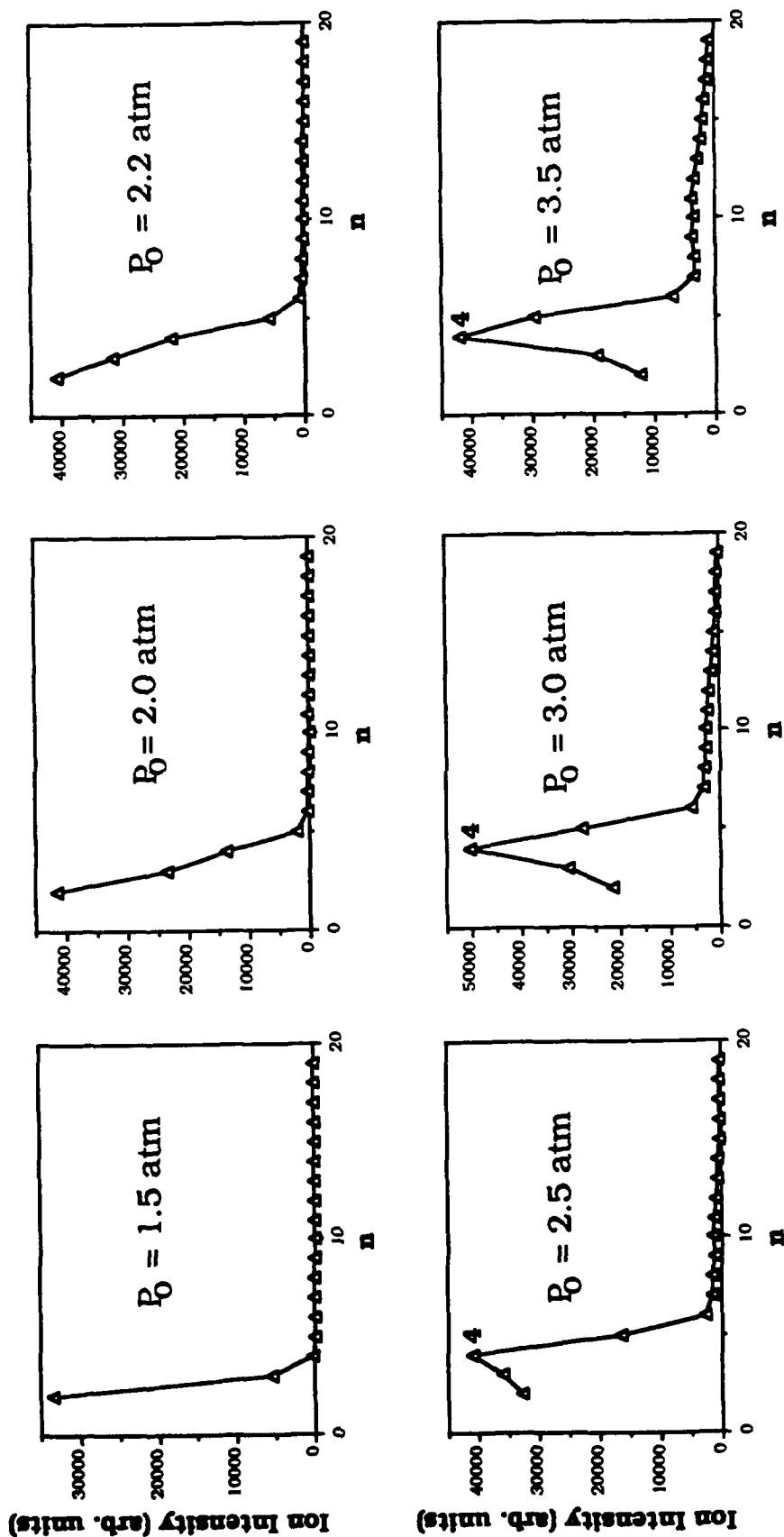


Figure 80 Comparison of Gains



